



Press Release

For Immediate Release:
Monday, July 18, 2005

Contact: Jon Myers
916-324-9670

California Provides Grants for Environmental Justice Communities

California Environmental Protection Agency Announces EJ Small Grants Program

SACRAMENTO- - Citing the need to “provide funding to environmental justice issues statewide,” California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) Secretary Dr. Alan C. Lloyd today initiated an Environmental Justice Small Grants Program. The program will provide \$250,000 for projects (a maximum of \$20,000 per project) to be undertaken by eligible community based non-profit groups with federal Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) status and federally recognized tribal governments to promote environmental justice in California.

“All Californians deserve clean air, clean water and clean land regardless of race, age, culture, income, or geographic location,” said Dr. Alan Lloyd. “These grants will help establish a level playing field for all communities of California and promote equity, fair treatment, accessibility, and protection for all.”

The Cal/EPA EJ Small Grants Program was established under Assembly Bill 2312 (Statutes of 2002, Chapter 994); by Assemblywoman Chu, to provide grants to eligible community-based grassroots non-profit organizations and federally recognized Tribal governments, located in areas adversely affected by environmental pollution and hazards and that are involved in work to address environmental justice concerns. Projects funded will address the following goals for reducing environmental impacts and are intended to foster common and desirable attributes statewide:

- 1. Enhance meaningful public participation.**

Meaningful public participation is critical to the success of any effort to address and find solutions to environmental justice issues. It allows communities and affected stakeholders to effectively participate in environmental decision-making processes.

- 2. Promote community capacity building.**

Community capacity building involves improving the communities’ technical and procedural understanding as well as facilitating their participation in environmental decision-making processes.

- 3. Collaborate with academia and/or other governmental agencies to document data related to exposures and health complaints.**

Collaboration amongst academia and/or other governmental agencies with affected EJ stakeholders in documenting exposures and health will encourage better understanding of environmental issues. This will improve relations between stakeholders and result in improved and informed decisions.

California Provides Grants for Environmental Justice Communities

California Environmental Protection Agency Announces EJ Small Grants Program

Pg. 2

Grants under the program will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that are based in communities with the most significant exposure to pollution.

Applications to the program must be submitted and received by October 14, 2005.

For more information and to obtain an application package, please visit the Cal/EPA EJ Small Grants website at:

www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/Funding/SmallGrants.htm

Applications can also be requested by writing to:

Office of the Secretary

Cal/EPA EJ Small Grants Program

1001 "I" Street, 25th Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814